

HOUSE BILL 1158  
By West

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, relative to  
chiropractic benefits.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 23, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

Section \_\_\_\_\_. Any employer-sponsored group health care plan that includes  
chiropractic benefits shall:

(1) include all primary chiropractic providers who are selected by covered  
persons of the plan for the provision of all chiropractic benefits provided by the  
plan which fall within the statutory scope of practice of the respective primary  
chiropractic provider;

(2) permit any licensed chiropractor who agrees to abide by the terms,  
conditions, reimbursement rates, and standards of quality of the  
employer-sponsored health benefit plan to serve as a participating primary  
chiropractic provider to any person covered by the plan;

(3) guarantee that all covered persons who are eligible for chiropractic  
benefits under an employer-sponsored health benefit plan shall have direct  
access to the primary chiropractic provider of their choice independent of, and  
without referral from any other provider or entity;

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(4) assure that those plans utilizing a gatekeeper system shall designate the primary chiropractic provider within the scope of practice as the gatekeeper, who shall provide basic patient care and coordinate diagnostic testing, indicated treatment, and specialty referral for those covered persons in the provision of chiropractic benefits. Nothing in this act shall prevent a covered person from having direct access to that persons primary care provider (gatekeeper) for treatment and being reimbursed in accordance with the terms and fee schedule of the health benefit plan;

(5) not discriminate between individual providers or classes of providers in the amount of reimbursement, copayment, or other financial compensation for the same or essentially similar services provided by the health benefit plan;

(6) not promote or recommend any individual provider or class of providers to a covered person by any method or means;

(7) assure that an adequate number of primary chiropractic providers are included as participating chiropractic providers to guarantee reasonable accessibility, timeliness of care, convenience, and continuity of care to covered persons; and

(8) make available to covered persons a listing of all participating primary chiropractic providers, with their practice location and telephone number on a regular, timely basis.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.